

PRE

Princes must, by a vigorous exercise of that law, make it every man's interest and honour to cultivate religion and virtue, by rendering vice a disgrace, and the certain ruin to *pre-ferment* or pretensions. *Swift.*

2. A place of honour or profit.
All *preferments* should be placed upon fit men. *L'Estrange.*

3. Preference; act of preferring. Not in use.
All which declare a natural *preference* of the one into the motion before the other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PREFERRER. [from *prefer*.] One who prefers.
TO PREFIGURATE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *figura*, Lat.] To shew by an antecedent representation.

PREFIGURATION. *n. f.* [from *præfigurare*.] Antecedent representation.

The same providence that hath wrought the one, will work the other; the former being pledges, as well as *præfigurations* of the latter. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

The variety of prophecies and *præfigurations* had their punctual accomplishment in the author of this institution. *Norris.*

TO PREFIGURE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *figura*, Lat.] To exhibit by antecedent representation.

What the Old Testament hath, the very same the New containeth; but that which lieth there, as under a shadow, is here brought forth into the open sun; things there *præfigured*, are here performed. *Hooker.*

Such piety, so chaste use of God's day,
That what we turn to feast, the turn'd to pray,
And did *præfigure* here in devout taste,
The rest of her high sabbath, which shall last. *Denne.*

If shame superadded to loss, and both met together, as the sinners portion here, perfectly *præfiguring* the two saddest ingredients in hell, deprivation of the blissful vision, and confusion of face, cannot prove efficacious to the mortifying of vice, the church doth give over the patient. *Hammond.*

TO PREFIGURE. *v. a.* [*præfiguro*, Fr. *præfiguro*, Lat.] To limit beforehand.

He, in his immoderate desires, *præfigured* unto himself three years, which the great monarchs of Rome could not perform in so many hundreds. *Knutley's Hist. of the Turks.*

TO PREFIX. *v. a.* [*præfixo*, Lat.]
1. To appoint beforehand.

At the *præfix'd* hour of her awaking,
Came I to take her from her kindred's vault. *Shakespeare.*

A time *præfix*, and think of me at last!
If none,
Its inundation constantly increaseth the seventh day of June;
wherein a larger form of speech were safer, than that which punctually *præfixeth* a constant day. *Brown.*

Booth's forward valour only serv'd to show,
He durst that duty pay we all did owe:
Th' attempt was fair; but heav'n's *præfix'd* hour
Not come. *Dryden.*

2. To settle; to establish.
Because I would *præfix* some certain boundary between them, the old statutes end with king Edward II. the new or later statutes begin with king Edward III. *Hale's Law of England.*

These boundaries of species are as men, and not as nature makes them; if there are in nature any such *præfix'd* bounds. *Locke.*

3. To put before another thing: as, he *præfix'd* an advertisement to his book.

PREFIX. *n. f.* [*præfixum*, Lat.] Some particle put before a word, to vary its signification.

In the Hebrew language the noun has its *præfixa* and affixa, the former to signify some few relations, and the latter to denote the pronouns possessive and relative. *Clarke.*

It is a *præfix* of augmentation to many words in that language. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PREFIXION. *n. f.* [*præfixion*, Fr. from *præfix*.] The act of prefixing. *Did.*

TO PREFORM. *v. a.* [*præ* and *form*.] To form beforehand.

If you consider the true cause,
Why all these things change, from their ordinance,
Their natures and *preformed* faculties,
To monstrous quality; why you shall find,
That heav'n made them instruments of fear
Unto some monstrous state. *Shakespeare. Julius Cæsar.*

PREGNANCY. *n. f.* [from *pregnant*.]
1. The state of being with young.

The breast is encompassed with ribs, and the belly left free, for respiration; and in females, for that extraordinary extension in the time of their *pregnancy*. *Ray on the Creation.*

2. Fertility; fruitfulness; inventive power; acuteness.
Pregnancy is made a tapster, and hath his quick wit wasted in giving reckonings. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*

This writer, out of the *pregnancy* of his invention, hath found out an old way of insinuating the grossest reflections upon the appearance of admonitions. *Swift's Miscel.*

PREGNANT. *adj.* [*pregnant*, Fr. *pregnans*, Lat.]
1. Teeming; breeding.

Thou
Dove-like sat'st brooding on the vast abyss,
And mad'st it *pregnant*. *Milton.*

His town, as fame reports, was built of old
By Danae, *pregnant* with almighty gold. *Dryden.*

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Through either ocean, foolish man!
That *pregnant* word sent forth again,
Might to a world extend each atom there,
For every drop call forth a sea, a heav'n for ev'ry star. *Pri.*

2. Fruitful; fertile; impregnating.
All these in their *pregnant* causes mixt. *Milton.*

Call the floods from high, to rush again
With *pregnant* streams, to swell the teeming grain. *Dryden.*

3. Full of consequence.
These knew not the just motives and *pregnant* grounds,
with which I thought myself furnished. *King Charles.*

An egregious and *pregnant* instance how far virtue surpasses
ingenuity. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

O detestable, passive obedience! did I ever imagine I
should become thy votary in so *pregnant* an instance. *Art.*

4. Evident; plain; clear; full. An obsolete sense.
This granted, as it is a most *pregnant* and unforced position,
who stands so eminent in the degree of this fortune as Cassio?
a knave very voluble. *Shakespeare. Othello.*

'Twere not that we stand up against them all,
'Twere *pregnant*, they should square between themselves.
Shakespeare. Antony and Cleopatra.

5. Easy to produce any thing.
A most poor man made tame to fortune's blows,
Who by the art of known and feeling sorrows,
Am *pregnant* to good pity. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*

6. Free; kind. Obsolete.
My matter hath no voice, but to your own most *pregnant*
and vouchsafed ear. *Shakespeare.*

PREGNANTLY. *adv.* [from *pregnant*.]
1. Fruitfully.

2. Fully; plainly; clearly.
A thousand moral paintings I can shew,
That shall demonstrate these quick blows of fortune
More *pregnantly* than words. *Shakespeare. Timon of Athens.*

The dignity of this office among the Jews is so *pregnantly*
set forth in holy writ, that it is unquestionable; kings and
priests are mentioned together. *South's Sermon.*

PREGUSTATION. *n. f.* [*præ* and *gusto*, Lat.] The act of
tasting before another.

TO PREJUDGE. *v. a.* [*præjugeo*, Fr. *præ* and *judico*, Lat.] To
determine any question beforehand; generally to condemn
beforehand.

If he flood upon his own title of the house of Lancaster,
he knew it was condemn'd in parliament, and *prejudged* in
the common opinion of the realm, and that it tended to the
dishonour of the line of York. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

The child was strong and able, though born in the first
month, which the physicians do *prejudge*. *Bacon.*

The committee of council hath *prejudged* the whole case,
by calling the united sense of both houses of parliament an
universal clamour. *Swift.*

Some action ought to be entered, lest a greater cause should
be injured and *prejudged* thereby. *Swift.*

TO PREJUDICATE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *judico*, Lat.] To de-
termine beforehand to disadvantage.

Our dearest friend
Prejudicates the business, and would seem
To have us make denial. *Shakespeare.*

Are you, in favour of his person, bent
Thus to *prejudicate* the innocent? *Sandys.*

PREJUDICATE. *adj.* [from the verb.]

1. Formed by prejudice; formed before examination.
This rule of casting away all our former *prejudicate* opi-
nions, is not proposed to any of us to be practised at once as
subjects or christians, but merely as philosophers. *Watt.*

2. Prejudiced; prepossessed.
Their works will be embraced by most that understand
them, and their reasons enforce belief from *prejudicate*
readers. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PREJUDICATION. *n. f.* [from *prejudicate*.] The act of judg-
ing beforehand.

PREJUDICE. *n. f.* [*præjudice*, Fr. *præjudicium*, Lat.]

1. Prepossession; judgment formed beforehand without exami-
nation. It is used for prepossession in favour of any thing or
against it. It is sometimes used with *to* before that which the
prejudice is against, but not properly.

The king himself frequently considered more the person
who spoke, as he was in his *prejudices*, than the counsel itself
that was given. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

My comfort is, that their manifest *prejudice* to my cause
will render their judgment of less authority. *Dryden.*

There is an unaccountable *prejudice* to projectors of all
kinds, for which reason, when I talk of practising to fly
silly people think me an owl for my pains. *Addison.*

2. Mischief; detriment; hurt; injury. This sense is only ac-
cidental and consequential; a bad thing being called a *prejudice*,
only because *prejudice* is commonly a bad thing, and is not de-
rived from the original or etymology of the word: it were
therefore better to use it less; perhaps *prejudice* ought never
to be applied to any mischief, which does not imply some
partiality or prepossession. In some of the following examples
its impropriety will be discovered. *I have*

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I have not spake one the least word,
That might be *prejudice* of her present state,
Or touch of her good person. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*

England and France might, through their amity,
Breed him some *prejudice*; for from this league
Peep'd harms that menac'd him. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*

Factions carried too high and too violently, is a sign of
weakness in princes, and much to the *prejudice* of their au-
thority and business. *Bacon.*

How plain this abuse is, and what *prejudice* it does to the
understanding of the sacred scriptures. *Locke.*

A prince of this character will instruct us by his example,
to fix the unsteadiness of our politics; or by his conduct
hinder it from doing us any *prejudice*. *Addison.*

TO PREJUDICE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To prepossess with unexamined opinions; to fill with *pre-
judices*.

Half-pillars wanted their expected height,
And roofs imperfect *prejudic'd* the sight. *Prior.*

Suffer not any beloved study to *prejudice* your mind, so far
as to despise all other learning. *Watts.*

No snares to captivate the mind he spreads,
Nor bribes your eyes to *prejudice* your heads. *Anonym.*

2. To oblige or injure by prejudices previously raised.
Companies of learned men, be they never so great and re-
verend, are to yield unto reason; the weight whereof is no
whit *prejudiced* by the simplicity of his person, which doth
allege it. *Hooker, b. ii. f. 7.*

Neither must his example, done without the book, *preju-
dice* that which is well appointed in the book. *Whitgift.*

I am not to *prejudice* the cause of my fellow-poets, though
I abandon my own defence. *Dryden.*

3. To injure; to hurt; to diminish; to impair; to be detri-
mental to. This sense, as in the noun, is often improperly
extended to meanings that have no relation to the original
sense; who can read with patience of an ingredient that *pre-
judices* a medicine?

The strength of that law is such, that no particular nation
can lawfully *prejudice* the same by any their several laws and
ordinances, more than a man by his private resolutions, the
law of the whole commonwealth wherein he liveth. *Hooker.*

The Danube reic'd, and the empire sav'd,
Say, is the majesty of verse retriev'd?
And would it *prejudice* thy softer vein,
To sing the princes, Louis and Eugene? *Prior.*

To this is added a vinous bitter, warmer in the composition
of its ingredients than the watry infusion; and, as gentian
and lemon-peel make a bitter of so grateful a flavour, the
only care required in this composition was to chuse such an ad-
dition as might not *prejudice* it. *London Dispensatory.*

PREJUDICIAL. *adj.* [*præjudicialis*, Fr. from *prejudice*.]

1. Obstructive by means of opposite prepossessions.

2. Contrary; opposite.
What one syllable is there, in all this, *prejudicial* any way
to that which we hold? *Hooker, b. ii. f. 5.*

3. Mischievous; hurtful; injurious; detrimental. This sense
is improper. See **PREJUDICE**, noun and verb.

His going away the next morning with all his troops, was
most *prejudicial* and most ruinous to the king's affairs. *Clarend.*

One of the young ladies reads, while the others are at
work; so that the learning of the family is not at all *preju-
dicial* to its manufactures. *Addison's Guardian.*

A state of great prosperity, as it exposes us to various
temptations, so it is often *prejudicial* to us, in that it swells
the mind with undue thoughts. *Atterbury's Sermons.*

PREJUDICIALNESS. *n. f.* [from *prejudicial*.] The state of being
prejudicial; mischiefousness.

PRELACY. *n. f.* [from *prælate*.]

1. The dignity or post of a prelate or ecclesiastick of the highest
order.

Prelacies may be termed the greater benefices; as that of
the pontificate, a patriarchship, an archbishoprick and bishop-
rick. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

2. Episcopacy; the order of bishops.
The presbyter, puff'd up with spiritual pride,
Shall on the necks of the lewd nobles ride,
His brethren damn, the civil power defy,
And parcel out republick *prelacy*. *Dryden.*

How many are there, that call themselves protestants, who
put *prelacy* and popery together as terms convertible. *Swift.*

3. Bishops. Collectively.
Divers of the reverend *prelacy*, and other most judicious
men, have especially bestowed their pains about the matter of
jurisdiction. *Hooker's Dedication.*

PRELATE. *n. f.* [*prælat*, Fr. *prælatus*, Lat.] An ecclesi-
astick of the highest order and dignity.

It becometh not the person of so grave a *prælate*, to be ci-
ther utterly without counsel, as the rest were, or in a common
perplexity to shew himself alone secure. *Hooker.*

Hear him but reason in divinity,
And, all-admiring, with an inward wish
You would desire the king were made a *prælate*. *Shakespeare.*

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The archbishop of Vienna, a reverend *prælate*, said one
day to king Lewis XI. of France; sir, your mortal enemy is
dead, what time duke Charles of Burgundy was slain. *Bacon.*

Yet Munster's *prælate* ever be accurst,
In whom we seek the German faith in vain. *Dryden.*

PRELATICAL. *adj.* [from *prælate*.] Relating to prelate or
prelacy. *Diët.*

PRELATION. *n. f.* [*prælatus*, Lat.] Preference; setting of
one above the other.

In case the father left only daughters, they equally suc-
ceeded as in co-partnership, without any *prelacion* or preference
of the eldest daughter to a double portion. *Hale.*

PRELATURE. *n. f.* [*prælatura*, Lat. *prælature*, Fr.] The
PRELATURESHIP. *n. f.* [*prælature*, Lat.] The
PRELECTION. *n. f.* [*prælectio*, Lat.] Reading; lecture;
discourse.

He that is desirous to prosecute these assylata of infinitude,
let him resort to the *prælections* of Faber. *Hale.*

PRELIBATION. *n. f.* [from *prælibo*, Lat.] Taste beforehand;
effusion previous to tasting.

The firm belief of this, in an innocent soul, is a high
prælibation of those eternal joys. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

PRELIMINARY. *adj.* [*præliminaire*, Fr. *præ* limine, Lat.] Pre-
vious; introductory; proemial.

My master needed not the assistance of that *preliminary* poet
to prove his claim; his own majestic mien discovers him to
be the king. *Dryden.*

PRELIMINARY. *n. f.* Something previous; preparatory mea-
sures.

The third consists of the ceremonies of the oath on both
sides, and the *preliminaries* to the combat. *Notes on Iliad.*

PRELUDE. *n. f.* [*prælude*, Fr. *præludium*, Lat.]
1. Some short flight of mulick played before a full concert.

2. Something introductory; something that only shews what is
to follow.

To his infant arms oppos'd
His father's rebels and his brother's foes;
Those were the *preludes* of his fate,
That form'd his manhood, to subdue
The hydra of the many-headed hissing crew. *Dryden.*

The last Georgick was a good *prelude* to the *Æneis*, and
very well shewed what the poet could do in the description of
what was really great. *Addison.*

One concession to a man is but a *prelude* to another. *Clarissa.*

TO PRELUDE. *v. a.* [*præludeo*, Fr. *præludo*, Lat.] To serve
as an introduction; to be previous to.

Either longer holding out their throats,
And folding up their wings, renew'd their notes,
As if all day, *preluding* to the fight,
They only had rehears'd, to sing by night. *Dryden.*

PRELUDIOUS. *adj.* [from *prelude*.] Previous; introductory.
That's but a *preludious* bliss,
Two souls pickering in a kiss. *Cleveland.*

PRELUDIUM. *n. f.* [Latin.] Prelude.

This Menelaus knows, expos'd to thare
With me the rough *prelusion* of the war. *Dryden.*

PRELUSIVE. *adj.* [from *prelude*.] Previous; introductory;
proemial.

The clouds
Softly shaking on the dimpled pool
Prælusive drops, let all their moisture flow. *Thomson.*

PREMATURE. *adj.* [*præmaturé*, Fr. *præmaturus*, Lat.] Ripe
too soon; formed before the time; too early; too soon said,
believed, or done; too hasty.

'Tis hard to imagine, what possible consideration should
persuade him to repent, till he deposited that *premature* per-
suation of his being in Christ. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*

PREMATURELY. *adv.* [from *premature*.] Too early; too
soon; with too hasty ripeness.

PREMATURENESS. *n. f.* [from *premature*.] Too great haste;
PREMATURITY. *n. f.* [from *premature*.] Unseasonable eagerness.

TO PREMEDIATE. *v. a.* [*præmeditatio*, Lat. *præmeditari*,
Fr.] To contrive or form beforehand; to conceive before-
hand.

Where I have come, great clerks have purpos'd
To greet me with *præmeditated* welcomes. *Shakespeare.*

With words *præmeditated* thus he said. *Dryden.*

TO PREMEDIATE. *v. n.* To have formed in the mind by
previous meditation; to think beforehand.

Of themselves they were rude, and knew not so much as
how to *præmeditate*; the spirit gave them speech and eloquent
utterance. *Hooker's Ecclesiastical Polity.*

PRÆMEDIATION. *n. f.* [*præmediatio*, Lat. *præmediation*, Fr.
from *præmeditare*.] Act of meditating beforehand.

Are all th' unlook'd-for issue of their bodies
To take their rooms ere I can place myself.
A cold *præmediation* for my purpose? *Shakespeare.*

Hope is a pleasant *præmediation* of enjoyment, as when a
dog expects, till his master has done picking of the bone.
More's Antidote against Atheism.

Verse